

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-59. (Cancelled)

60. (New) A method, comprising executing computer-implemented instructions performed by one or more processors for:

receiving, by a bill presentment and payment central clearinghouse, information identifying a payee to whom a payor intends to direct payment through the clearinghouse, wherein the payor has not previously activated electronic bill presentment from the payee through the clearinghouse;

accessing, by the clearinghouse and based on at least a portion of the received information identifying the payee, at least one database containing billing information;

identifying, by the clearinghouse from the accessed billing information, a bill presentment information associated with the payee;

generating, by the clearinghouse, a notification of the identified bill presentment information associated with the payee; and

transmitting, by the clearinghouse to the payor, the generated notification.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein identifying a bill presentment information associated with the payee comprises:

matching the at least a portion of the received information identifying the payee to at least a portion of the billing information; and

determining, subsequent to the matching, whether a bill presentment information is available in the billing information.

62. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein identifying a bill presentment information associated with the payee comprises identifying an indication that the payee is an electronic biller capable of providing electronic bill presentment to the payor through the clearinghouse.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising executing computer-implemented instructions performed by the one or more processors for:

receiving, by the clearinghouse from the payor, a request to activate electronic bill presentment of bills for the payor from the payee through the clearinghouse; and

initiating activation of electronic bill presentment in response to the received request.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein initiating activation of electronic bill presentment comprises:

transmitting, by the clearinghouse to the payee, a notification of the request to activate electronic bill presentment.

65. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein identifying a bill presentment information associated with the payee comprises identifying an indication that an electronic bill from the payee for the payor is available through the clearinghouse.

66. (New) The method of claim 65, further comprising executing computer-implemented instructions performed by the one or more processors for:

receiving, by the clearinghouse from the payor, a request to receive the electronic bill; and

transmitting, by the clearinghouse to the payor, the electronic bill.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, further comprising executing computer-implemented instructions performed by the one or more processors for:

transmitting, by the clearinghouse to the payee, a notification of the request to receive the electronic bill.

68. (New) The method of claim 66, further comprising executing computer-implemented instructions performed by the one or more processors for:

receiving, by the clearinghouse from the payor, a request to pay the electronic bill; and
remitting, by the clearinghouse to the payee, a payment for the electronic bill.

69. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the information identifying the payee is first information identifying the payee, and further comprising executing computer-implemented instructions performed by the one or more processors for:

identifying, by the clearinghouse, second information identifying the payee; and
transmitting, by the clearinghouse to the payor, the second information identifying the payee,
wherein the notification is transmitted to the payer with the second information identifying the payee.

70. (New) The method of claim 60, further comprising executing computer-implemented instructions performed by the one or more processors for:

storing, by the clearinghouse in a data store, the information identifying the payee,
wherein the identification of the bill presentment information occurs one of (i)
subsequent to storing the information identifying the payee, or (ii) prior to the storing the information identifying the payee.

71. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the billing information includes first bill information, and further comprising executing computer-implemented instructions performed by the one or more processors for:

receiving, by the clearinghouse from the payee, second bill information associated with bills of the payee;

identifying, by the clearinghouse from at least a portion of the second bill information, an electronic bill of the payee that is available for the payor through the clearinghouse; and

transmitting, by the clearinghouse to the payor, a notification of the available electronic bill of the payee.

72. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the second bill information associated with bills of the payee is received by the clearinghouse subsequent to the receipt of the information identifying the payee.

73. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the bill presentment information is a first bill presentment information, wherein the notification is a first notification, and further comprising executing computer-implemented instructions performed by the one or more processors for:

determining, by the clearinghouse, information identifying the payor;
accessing, by the clearinghouse and based on at least a portion of the determined information identifying the payor, at least one database containing electronic billing information for the payor; and
identifying, by the clearinghouse from the accessed electronic billing information for the payor, an electronic bill for the payor that is available to the payor through the clearinghouse;
generating, by the clearinghouse based at least in part on the identification of the electronic bill for the payor, a second notification of a second bill presentment information; and
transmitting, by the clearinghouse to the payor, the second notification.

74. (New) The method of Claim 73, wherein the payee is a first payee, and wherein the electronic bill for the payor is a bill of a second payee different than the first payee.

75. (New) The method of Claim 74, wherein the second bill presentment information comprises an indication that the second payee is an electronic biller capable of providing electronic bill presentment to the payor through the clearinghouse.

76. (New) The method of Claim 74, wherein the second bill presentment information comprises an indication that the electronic bill from the second payee for the payor is available through the clearinghouse.

77. (New) The method of Claim 60, further comprising executing computer-implemented instructions performed by the one or more processors for:

storing an indication of the identified payee in a payee list associated with the payor.

78. (New) The method of Claim 77, wherein the payee list comprises multiple payees identified by the payor, and further comprising executing computer-implemented instructions performed by the one or more processors for:

transmitting, by the clearinghouse to the payor, a presentation of the payee list, wherein the presentation includes the generated notification of the bill presentment information.

79. (New) A system, comprising:

a communications interface associated with a bill presentment and payment central clearinghouse and operable to (i) receive information identifying a payee to whom a payor intends to direct payment through the clearinghouse, wherein the payor has not previously activated electronic bill presentment from the payee through the clearinghouse, and (ii) transmit a notification to the payor; and

at least one processor associated with the clearinghouse and operable to (i) receive the information identifying the payee from the communications interface, (ii) access, based on at least a portion of the information identifying the payee, at least one database containing billing information, (iii) identify, from the accessed billing information, a bill presentment information associated with the payee, (iv) generate the notification to the payee, the notification included the identified bill presentment information, and (v) direct the communications interface to transmit the notification to the payor.

80. (New) The system of claim 79, wherein the processor is operable to identify the bill presentment information associated with the payee by:

matching the at least a portion of the received information identifying the payee to at least a portion of the billing information; and

determining, subsequent to the matching, whether a bill presentment information is available in the billing information.

81. (New) The system of claim 79, wherein the bill presentment information associated with the payee comprises an indication that the payee is an electronic biller capable of providing electronic bill presentment to the payor through the clearinghouse.

82. (New) The system of claim 81, wherein:

the communications interface is further operable to receive, from the payor, a request to activate electronic bill presentment of bills for the payor from the payee through the clearinghouse; and

the at least one processor is further operable to initiate the activation of electronic bill presentment in response to the received request.

83. (New) The system of claim 82, wherein the processor is further operable to direct the transmission, to the payee, of a notification of the request to activate electronic bill presentment.

84. (New) The system of claim 79, wherein the bill presentment information associated with the payee comprises an indication that an electronic bill from the payee for the payor is available through the clearinghouse.

85. (New) The system of claim 84, wherein:

the communications interface is further operable to receive, from the payor, a request to receive the electronic bill; and

the at least one processor is further operable to direct the transmission of the electronic bill to the payor.

86. (New) The system of claim 85, wherein the at least one processor is further operable to direct the transmission of a notification of the request to receive the electronic bill to the payee.

87. (New) The system of claim 85, wherein:

the communications interface is further operable to receive, from the payor, a request to pay the electronic bill; and

the at least one processor is further operable to direct the remittance, to the payee, of a payment for the electronic bill.

88. (New) The system of claim 79, wherein:

the information identifying the payee is first information identifying the payee,

the at least one processor is further operable to identify second information identifying the payee, and

the communications interface is further operable to transmit, to the payor, the second information identifying the payee with the notification.

89. (New) The system of claim 79, wherein the at least one processor is further operable to store, in a data store, the information identifying the payee, and

wherein the identification of the bill presentment information by the at least one processor occurs one of (i) subsequent to storing the information identifying the payee, or (ii) prior to the storing the information identifying the payee.

90. (New) The system of claim 79, wherein:

the billing information includes first bill information,

the communications interface is further operable to receive, from the payee, second bill information associated with bills of the payee, and

the at least one processor is further operable to (i) identify, from the second bill information, an electronic bill of the payee that is available for the payor through the clearinghouse and (ii) direct the transmission, to the payor, of a notification of the available electronic bill of the payee.

91. (New) The system of claim 90, wherein the second bill information associated with bills of the payee is received by the communications interface subsequent to the receipt of the information identifying the payee.

92. (New) The system of claim 79, wherein:
the bill presentment information is a first bill presentment information,
wherein the notification is a first notification, :
wherein the at least one processor is further operable to (i) determine information identifying the payor, (ii) access, based on at least a portion of the determined information identifying the payor, at least one database containing electronic billing information for the payor, (iii) identify, from the accessed electronic billing information for the payor, an electronic bill for the payor that is available to the payor through the clearinghouse, (iv) generate, based at least in part on the identification of the electronic bill for the payor, a second notification of a second bill presentment information, and (v) direct the transmission, to the payor, of the second notification.
93. (New) The system of Claim 92, wherein the payee is a first payee, and
wherein the electronic bill for the payor is a bill of a second payee different than the first payee.
94. (New) The system of Claim 93, wherein the second bill presentment information comprises an indication that the second payee is an electronic biller capable of providing electronic bill presentment to the payor through the clearinghouse.
95. (New) The system of Claim 93, wherein the second bill presentment information comprises an indication that the electronic bill from the second payee for the payor is available through the clearinghouse.
96. (New) The system of Claim 79, wherein the at least one processor is further operable to direct the storage of an indication of the identified payee in a payee list associated with the payor.
97. (New) The system of Claim 96, wherein:

the list comprises multiple payees identified by the payor,
the at least one processor is further operable to direct the communications interface to and transmit a presentation of the payee list to the payor, and
the communications interface is further operable to transmit the presentation to the payor, wherein the presentation includes the generated notification.

98. (New) The system of Claim 97, wherein the presentation includes the bill presentment information.

99. (New) A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code adapted to be executed to facilitate:

receiving, by a bill presentment and payment central clearinghouse, information identifying a payee to whom a payor intends to direct payment through the clearinghouse, wherein the payor has not previously activated electronic bill presentment from the payee through the clearinghouse;

accessing, by the clearinghouse and based on at least a portion of the received information identifying the payee, at least one database containing billing information;

identifying, by the clearinghouse from the accessed billing information, a bill presentment information associated with the payee;

generating, by the clearinghouse, a notification of the identified bill presentment information associated with the payee; and

transmitting, by the clearinghouse to the payor, the generated notification.